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TECHNICAL NOTE

HIGHLIGHTS OF FOREST PEST CONDITIONS IN THE MARITIMES AT THE END OF JULY 1990

In this, the third report of 1990, forest pest conditions as they appeared in the Maritimes at the end of July 1990, are briefly discussed. Although a great number of forest insects and diseases have been active in the Maritimes in 1990, this report is remarkably short on major highlights due to the fact that "the forests, in general, are in pretty good shape."

Spruce budworm aerial surveys have been completed in all three provinces. There is no visible defoliation in Nova Scotia. In Prince Edward Island, moderate or light defoliation occurred in patches of white spruce in the southeastern parts of the province, at levels lower than were observed last year. The New Brunswick information is not yet available.

Spruce beetle has been killing mature and over-mature white spruce trees along uncut valleys and hillsides in many areas of Victoria, Restigouche, and Northumberland counties in northern New Brunswick. Both dead and dying trees are present, indicating that the infestations are not new and are still active.

Sirococcus shoot blight, considered to be mostly a disease of red pine in plantations, caused mortality of current shoots of white spruce in natural stands at several locations in the southern parts of Antigonish and Pictou counties, Nova Scotia. Although damage levels are only trace or light (less than 30% of shoots killed), the fact that the disease is present in natural white spruce stands is significant.

NURSERIES ☐

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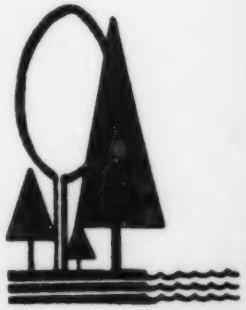
INSECTS AND DISEASES ■



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Stillwell's syndrome, the sudden death of balsam fir trees, appears to be more common than last year throughout New Brunswick and very common in Kings and southeastern Queens counties in Prince Edward Island.

Balsam fir tip blight is common in northern and eastern New Brunswick and has been observed in all three counties in Prince Edward Island. Although infection has been limited to a few scattered semi-mature or mature trees in a given area, shoot damage on affected trees is variable but usually in the light or moderate categories.

Cedar leafminers are causing considerable foliage discoloration at locations in St. John County, New Brunswick, contributing further to their general state of decline. Stands of cedar also suffered moderate and severe damage by leafminers at several locations in Prince County, Prince Edward Island.

Dutch elm disease has not been found outside of its known range, to date, in any of the provinces, but intensification is continuing both in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia with both old and younger trees becoming infected.

Beech bark disease severely damaged two stands in northwestern New Brunswick, in areas where the disease has been least common in the Region until recently. Both the insect (beech scale) and the fungal component (Nectria) are present. Some trees are dead; others are dying.

Other forest insects and diseases active in July included: **alder flea beetle**, very common throughout most of the region at all levels of damage; **elm leafminer**, severe on European variety elm in Queens County, Prince Edward Island and moderate on native elm in central Nova Scotia; **fall webworm** appears to be more common than in previous years, particularly in southwestern Nova Scotia; **elm leaf beetle** has caused moderate and severe leaf browning on many trees in the downtown area of Fredericton, New Brunswick; **birch casebearer**, found causing severe damage to white birch and alder at locations in Kings and Prince counties, Prince Edward Island; **birch leafminer**, common on wire birch throughout southwestern Nova Scotia; etc.

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Forest Insect and Disease Survey

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